

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROWING IN LOVE
Make Every Effort — Week 12

ICEBREAKER: What is the greatest invention the world has ever seen?

OVERVIEW: In 1880 a pastor named Henry Drummond wrote what has become one of the most famous sermons of all time called “The Greatest Thing in the World.” It was an exposition of 1 Corinthians 13. What is the greatest thing in the world? Love. God is love, and He wants us to become more and more loving. In this discussion we will talk about the true definition of love, and learn how to grow in the virtue of love.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. What are the three primary Greek words for love, and how are they different?
3. How is agape love different than the world’s definition of love?
4. What does it mean that love is an objective reality?
5. Where do we learn the true definition of love?
6. Love does what is best for people, not what makes them feel good? What’s the difference?
7. Love discriminates. We are not to love everything. Along with the world and the things of the world, what else must Christians not love? What things must Christians hate?
8. What does it mean that our love for others must never cause us to compromise our love for God?
9. What should we do when we come to the realization that we so often fall short of the true definition of love?
10. Why is it important to cultivate the virtue of love?
11. The Bible is filled with examples of how to love others. What are some ways to show true, Biblical love to people?
12. The Bible says that your love can grow cold, and it can increase (Mt 24:12; 1 Thess 1:3). How can we ensure that our love increases and doesn’t grow cold?

The Last Word: In the cross we see God loving His enemies; loving the unlovable; loving unconditionally; loving sacrificially; loving perfectly.